

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, no claims have been amended, cancelled, or added. No new matter is being presented. Therefore, claims 1-13 are pending and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maegawa et al (U.S. Patent 5,745,463) in view of any one of Arioka (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0015371), Hosokawa (U.S. Publication No. 2001-0046613), Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent 6,721,254) or Poupinet et al (U.S. Publication No. 20060136956). This rejection is traversed.

Briefly, it is noted that the present application claims the benefit of priority to PCT Application number PCT/KR99/00164, filed April 3, 1999, and to Korean Application No. 1998-11893, filed April 3, 1998, which predates the prior art dates of Arioka (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0015371), Hosokawa (U.S. Publication No. 2001-0046613), Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent 6,721,254), and Poupinet et al (U.S. Publication No. 20060136956). Moreover, a verified copy of the translation of the priority document is being filed concurrently herewith in order to perfect the priority date. As such, Arioka, Hosokawa, Yamaguchi, and Poupinet are not proper references and the rejection is, therefore, traversed.

CONCLUSION:


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited. If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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